

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly replace claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) Process for the continuous purification and concentration of leukocytes from blood or from a buffy coat fraction, characterized in that said process comprises the following steps:
- (a) separating plasma from the blood or from the buffy coat fraction by filtration in order to achieve a filtered buffy coat fraction;
  - (b) adding an aqueous solution, which is hypotonic in relation to plasma, to the filtered buffy coat fraction resulting from step (a), in order to achieve lysis of erythrocytes contained in the filtered buffy coat fraction;
  - (c) mixing the filtered buffy coat fraction and the aqueous hypotonic solution from step (b) in a mixing device;
  - (d) leading the mixture from step (c) through a retention vessel;
  - (e) leading the mixture from step (d) through a centrifuge in order to separate the leukocytes;
  - (f) collecting the separated leukocytes from step (e).
2. (Twice Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the process is for continuous purification and concentration of leukocytes from a buffy coat fraction, wherein step (a) involves separating plasma from the buffy coat fraction by filtration in order to achieve a filtered buffy coat fraction.
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4. (Twice Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the filtration is performed by leading the blood or the buffy coat fraction through a membrane filter with a pore size in the interval of 0.1 - 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the filtration is performed by leading the blood or the buffy coat fraction through a membrane filter with a pore size in the interval of 0.4 - 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$ .

11. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the blood or the buffy coat fraction is derived from human blood.